The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq.

From *Saturday October* 29. to *Tuesday November* 1. 1709.

White's Chocolate-House, October 31.

I Have lately receiv'd a Letter from a Friend in the Country, wherein he acquaints me, That two or three Men of the Town are got among 'em, and have brought down particular Words and Phrases, which were never before in those Parts. He mentions in particular the Words *Gunner* and *Gunster*, which my Correspondent observes they make use of when any Thing has been related that is strange and surprizing; and therefore desires I would explain those Terms, as I have done others, for the Information of such as live at a Distance from this Town and Court, which he calls the great Mints of Language. His Letter is dated from *York*; and (if he tells me Truth) a Word in its ordinary Circulation does not reach that City within the Space of Five Years after it is first stamp'd. I cannot say how long these Words have been current in Town, but I shall now take Care to send 'em down by the next Post.

I must in the first Place observe, That the Words *Gunner* and *Gunster* are not to be us'd promiscuously; for a Gunner, properly speaking, is not a Gunster; nor is a Gunster, *vice versâ*, a Gunner. They both indeed are deriv'd from the Word Gun, and so far they agree. But as a Gun is remarkable for its destroying at a Distance, or for the Report it makes, which is apt to startle all its Hearers, those who recount strange Accidents and Circumstances, which have no Manner of Foundation in Truth, when they design to do Mischief, are comprehended under the Appellation of Gunners; but when they endeavour only to surprise and entertain, they are distinguish'd by the Name of Gunsters. Gunners therefore are the Pest of Society; but the Gunsters often the Diversion. The Gunner is destructive, and hated; the Gunster innocent, and laugh'd at. The first is prejudicial to others, the other only to himself.

This being premis'd, I must in the next Place subdivide the Gunner into several Branches: All or the Chief of which are I think as follow;

First, The Bombardier.
Secondly, The Miner.
Thirdly, The Squib.
Fourthly, The Serpent.

And *First*. Of the First, The Bombardier tosses his Balls sometimes into the midst of a City, with a Design to fill all around him with Terror and Combustion. He has been sometimes known to drop a Bomb in a Senate-house, and to scatter a Pannick over a Nation. But his chief Aim is at several eminent Stations, which he looks upon as the fairest Marks, and uses all his Skill to do Execution upon those who possess them. Every Man so situated, let his Merit be never so great, is sure to undergo a Bombardment. It is further observ'd, that the only Way to be out of Danger from the Bursting of a Bomb, is to lie prostrate on the Ground; a Posture too abject for generous Spirits.

Secondly, The Miner.

As the Bombardier levels his Mischief at Nations and Cities, the Miner busies himself in ruining and overturning private Houses, and particular Persons. He often acts as a Spy, in discovering the secret Avenues and unguarded Accesses of Families, where, after he has made his proper Discoveries and Dispositions, he lets sudden Fire to his Train, that blows up Families, scatters Friends, separates Lovers, disperses Kindred, and shakes a whole Neighbourhood.

It is to be noted, that several Females are great Proficients in this Way of Enginiering. The Marks by which they are to be known, are a wonderful Solicitude for the Reputation of their Friends, and a more than ordinary Concern for the Good of their Neighbours. There is also in them something so very like Religion, as may deceive the Vulgar; but if you look upon it very nearly, you see on it such a Cast of Censoriousness, as discovers it to be nothing but Hypocrisy. *Cleomilla* is a great Instance of a Female Miner; But as my Design is to expose only the Incorrigible, let her be silent for the future, and I shall be so too.

Thirdly, The Squib.

The Squibs are those who in the common Phrase of the World are call'd Libellers, Lampooners, and Pamphleteers. Their Fire-works are made up in Paper; and it is observ'd, that they mix abundance of Charcoal in their Powder, that they may be sure to blacken where they cannot singe. These are observ'd to give a Consternation and Disturbance only to weak Minds; which, according to the Proverb, are always more afraid than hurt.

Fourthly, Serpents.

The Serpents are a petty Kind of Gunners, more pernicious than any of the rest. They make Use of a Sort of White Powder, that goes off without any violent Crack, but gives a gentle Sound, much like that of a Whisper; and is more destructive in all Parts of Life, than any of the Materials made Use of by any of the Fraternity.

Come we now to the *Gunstery*.

This Race of Enginiers deals altogether in Wind-Guns, which by recoiling often, knock down those who discharge 'em, without hurting any body else; and according to the various Compressions of the Air, make such strange Squeaks, Cracks, Pops, and Bounces, as it is impossible to hear without Laughing. 'Tis observable however, that there is a Disposition in a Gunster to become a Gunner; and tho' their proper Instruments are only loaden with Wind, they often, out of Wantonness, fire a Bomb, or spring a Mine, out of their natural Inclination to Enginiering; by which Means they do Mischief when they don't design it, and have their Bones broken when they don't deserve it.

This Sort of Enginiers are the most unaccountable Race of Men in the World: Some of 'em have receiv'd above an Hundred Wounds, and yet have not a Scar in their Bodies; some have debauch'd Multitudes of Women who have dy'd Maids. You may be with 'em from Morning till Night, and the next Day they shall tell you a Thousand Adventures that happen'd when you were with them, which you know nothing of. They have a Quality of having been present at every Thing they hear related; and never heard a Man commended, who was not their intimate Acquaintance, if not their Kinsman.

I hope

I hope these Notes may serve as a rough Draught for a new Establishment of Engineirs, which I shall hereafter fill up with proper Persons, according to my own Observations on their Conduct, having already had one recommended to me for the General of my Artillery. But that, and all the other Posts, I intend to keep open, till I can inform my self of the Candidates, having resolv'd in this Case to depend no more upon their Friends Word, than I would upon their own.

From my own Apartment, October 31.

I was this Morning awak'd by a sudden Shake of the House; and as soon as I had got a little out of my Consternation, I felt another, which was follow'd by Two or Three Repetitions of the same Convulsion. I got up as fast as possible, girt on my Rapier, and snatch'd up my Hat, when my Landlady came up to me, and told me, That the Gentlewoman of the next House begg'd me to step thither; for that a Lodger she had taken in was run mad, and she desir'd my Advice; as indeed every body in the whole Lane does upon important Occasions. I am not like some Artists, fawcy, because I can be beneficial, but went immediately. Our Neighbour told us, she had the Day before let her Second Floor to a very genteel youngish Man, who told her, he kept extraordinary good Hours, and was generally at Home most Part of the Morning and Evening, at Study; but that this Morning he had for an Hour together made this extravagant Noise which we then heard. I went up Stairs with my Hand upon the Hilt of my Rapier, and approach'd this new Lodger's Door. I look'd in at the Key-hole, and there I saw a well-made Man look with great Attention on a Book, and on a sudden jump into the Air so high, that his Head almost touch'd the Sieling. He came down like on his Right Foot, and again flew up alighting on his Left; then look'd again at his Book, and holding out his Right Leg, put it into such a quivering Motion, that I thought he would have shak'd it off. He us'd the Left after the same Manner, when on a sudden, to my great Surprize, he stoop'd himself incredibly low, and turn'd gently on his Toes. After this circular Motion, he continu'd bent in that humble Posture for some Time, looking on his Book. After this, he recover'd himself with a sudden Spring, and flew round the Room in all the Violence and Disorder imaginable, till he made a full Pause for Want of Breath. In this Interim my Women ask'd what I thought: I whisper'd, that I thought this learned Person an Enthusiast, who possibly had his first Education in the Peripatetick Way, which was a Sect of Philosophers who always study'd when walking. But observing him much out of Breath, I thought it the best Time to master him if he were disorder'd, and knock'd at his Door. I was surpris'd to find him open it, and say with great Civility and good Mien, That he hopes he had not disturb'd us. I believ'd him in a lucid Interval, and desir'd he'd please to let me see his Book. He did so, smiling. I could not make any Thing of it, and therefore ask'd in what Language it was writ. He said, It was one he study'd with great Application; but it was his Profession to teach it, and could not communicate his Knowledge without a Consideration. I answer'd, That I hop'd he would hereafter keep his Thoughts to himself; for his Meditation this Morning had cost me Three Coffee-Dishes, and a clean Pipe. He seem'd concern'd at that, and told me, he was a Dancing-Master, and had been reading a Dance or Two before he went out, which had been written by one who taught at an Academy in *France*. He observ'd me at a stand, and went on to inform me, That now articulate Motions, as well as Sounds, were express'd by proper Characters; and that there is nothing so common, as to communicate a Dance by a Letter. I beseech'd him hereafter to meditate in a Ground Room; for that otherwise it would be impossible for an Artist of any other Kind to live near him; and that I was sure several of his Thoughts this Morning would have shaken my Spectacles off my Nose, had I been my self at Study.

I then took my Leave of this Virtuoso, and return'd to my Chamber, meditating on the various Occupations of Rational Creatures.

St. James's Coffee-house, November 1.

Letters from the *Hague* of the 28th of *October* say, that the Duke of *Marlborough* design'd to embark for *England* as on this Day.

Advertisements.

TAken up in Princes-street near Stocks-Market on Friday the 21st past in the Evening, an old Silk Gown and Lining. The Owner describing it, and paying the Charge of this Advertisement, may have it again, at the Golden Ball in the aforesaid Street.

THE Lucky Seventy: Or, The longest Livers take all. In a Proposal for Annuities for Life, with the Benefit of Survivorship; such as the Purses of the Generality of the People may be able to compass; issuing out of the Annuities granted, or to be granted, by Parliament, for a Term certain of Ninety nine Years. Hence great Profits will arise to such as shall live long; and an immediate Income to all the Subscribers, Tax-free, and payable half yearly, during the Lives of their respective Nominees. The least Summ to subscrib'd, is Ten Pounds; but any Contributor, or such Person as shall be employ'd by such Contributor, may subscribe for as many Summs of Ten Pounds as he, or they, shall think fit. Subscriptions are taken from Two till Five in the Afternoon, at Haberdashers-Hall in Maiden-lane near Wood-street, London, where may be seen the Articles of Agreement, the Method of the Dividing of the Subscription-Monies and Tallies, and the Allowances to the Subscribers of the first Twenty Thousand Pounds, and other Particulars relating to the said Proposal.

THE famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has perform'd so many remarkable Cures in those Cases, of which there are concluding Instances, Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been relieved by it, too numerous to be inserted here, are to be seen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookseller in Fleet-street. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away from divers Persons, to be seen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookseller in Cornhill; At both which Places only it is to be sold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doses, with Directions. The Person who prepares it, is to be spoken with every Tuesday and Thursday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above-mention'd.

☞ The famous Chimical Quintessence of Bohee-Tea and Cocoa-Nuts together, wherein the Volatile Salt, Oil, and Spirit of them both, are chymically extracted and united, and in which all the Virtues of both Tea and Nut are essentially inherent, and is really a pleasant, refreshing Preparation, found, upon Experience, to be the highest Restorative that either Food or Physick affords; for by it all Consumptive Habits, Decays of Nature, inward Wastings, weakly, thin, or emaciated Constitutions, Coughs, Asthma's, Phthicks, Loss of Appetite, &c. are to a Miracle retriev'd, and the Body, Blood, and Spirits, powerfully corroborated and restored. A few Drops of it, in a Dish of Bohee-Tea or Chocolate, is the most delirable Breakfast or Supper, and outvies, for Virtue and Nourishment, Twenty Dishes of either without it; nothing being more nutritive and supporting. Likewise to strengthen the Back, prevent Miscarriages, cause Procreation and Conception, it is beyond all Medecine, as those that take it once will find, and scarce ever live without it. It is also the only sure Cure for Vapours and Melancholy; for those Diseases being occasion'd by the Poysons of the Blood and Spirits, this Quintessence cures, by its enriching and enlivening Properties. Is sold only at Mr. Laurence's, a Toy-shop, at the Sign of the Griffin, the Corner of Bucklersbury, in the Poultry, at 5 s. the Bottle, with printed Directions.

The only True Purging Essential Salt of Scurvy-Grass, the pleasantest Physick in the World, which effectually eradicates that reigning Disease: It purges gently by Stool, never vomits, but works pleasant, easie, and safe, without Sickness, or almost any Disorder: Invigorats and refreshes Nature, cleanses the Body and Blood of all Filth, corroborates both, invigorates the Spirits, restores lost Stomachs, carries off the Remains of bad Wines, and is immediately necessary on all Occasions that require Purging: It's needless to say, it cures the Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatism, Dropsie, Jaundice, Green-sickness, Hypocondriac Melancholy, &c. for it opens all Obstructions of the Liver, Spleen, and Gall, powerfully resists Putrefaction, is Diuretick helps Digestion, kills Worms, and brings them away both in Children and adult Persons. Is only Sold by Mr. Harrilton, at a Wax Chandler's at the White-Hart in the Poultry; and at Mrs. Cole's, at the Dial and Two Crowns, Toy-shop, against St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street; at 1 s. an Ounce, seal'd up with printed Directions.

*** Whereas Proposals were some Time since publish'd, for printing all the Works of Mr. Sam. Johnson, Author of Julian the Apostate; This is to inform all Gentlemen who are willing to encourage the said Work, that it is now in the Press, and will certainly be publish'd in February next. It is to contain 130 Sheets. Price to Subscribers 12 s. in Quires, 7 paying for 6; the large Paper 18 s. Subscriptions are taken by A. Bell in Cornhill, J. Darby in Bartholomew-Close, E. Sanger at the Post-house in Fleet-street, and other Booksellers. N. B. They who expect the Benefit of the Subscription, must be speedy, there being but a very small Number printed.

Just Publish'd,

*** The Committee: Or, The Faithful Irishman. A Comedy. As it is acted at the Theatre-Royal, by her Majesty's Servants. Written by the Honourable Sir Robert Howard. Printed for M. Hawkins at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-yard. Pr. 1 s.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where *Advertisements* are taken in.